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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for listing activities in a graphical user interface in a collaborative work tool framework comprising the steps of:
 - (a) displaying an activity window having activity description data, activity start data, activity duration data, and ~~an~~ activity status data;
 - (b) defining an activity in response to user selection of a define activity button, wherein the defined activity is thereafter displayed in the activity window and the defined activity includes an activity description, a start time, a duration, and a status; and
 - (c) determining ~~[[a]]~~ the status for the defined activity based on the start time activity start data for the defined activity and the activity duration data for the defined activity[[.]]; and
 - (d) automatically acquiring background information relevant to the defined activity including automatically obtaining the activity description when the start time is within a predetermined period, parsing and pattern matching the activity description to identify searchable components thereof, querying a plurality of sources across a network to obtain the background information, and receiving the background information in response to querying the plurality of sources.
2. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the activity is defined as a brainstorming activity.
3. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the activity is defined as a categorization activity.
4. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the activity is defined as a voting activity.
5. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of displaying a message window capable of displaying user messages in real-time.
6. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of sending the defined activity to a database in response to user selection of a submit button.

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7. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of sending the defined activity to a specific participant user in response to user selection of the specific participant user from a participant user menu.

8. (currently amended) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for listing activities in a graphical user interface in a collaborative work tool framework comprising:

- (a) a code segment for displaying an activity window having activity description data, activity start data, activity duration data, and ~~an~~ activity status data;
- (b) a code segment for defining an activity in response to user selection of a define activity button, wherein the defined activity is thereafter displayed in the activity window and the defined activity includes an activity description, a start time, a duration, and a status; and
- (c) a code segment for determining ~~[[a]]~~ the status for the defined activity based on the start time ~~activity start data~~ for the defined activity and the activity duration data for the defined activity~~[[.]]~~; and
- (d) a code segment for automatically acquiring background information relevant to the defined activity including automatically obtaining the activity description when the start time is within a predetermined period, parsing and pattern matching the activity description to identify searchable components thereof, querying a plurality of sources across a network to obtain the background information, and receiving the background information in response to querying the plurality of sources.

9. (original) A computer program as recited in claim 8, wherein the activity is defined as a brainstorming activity.

10. (original) A computer program as recited in claim 8, wherein the activity is defined as a categorization activity.

11. (original) A computer program as recited in claim 8, wherein the activity is defined as a voting activity.

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12. (original) A computer program as recited in claim 8, further comprising a code segment for displaying a message window capable of displaying user messages in real-time.
13. (original) A computer program as recited in claim 8, further comprising a code segment for sending the defined activity to a database in response to user selection of a submit button.
14. (original) A computer program as recited in claim 8, further comprising a code segment for sending the defined activity to a specific participant user in response to user selection of the specific participant user from a participant user menu.
15. (currently amended) A system for listing activities in a graphical user interface in a collaborative work tool framework comprising the steps of:
- (a) logic for displaying an activity window having activity description data, activity start data, activity duration data, and ~~an~~ activity status data;
 - (b) logic for defining an activity in response to user selection of a define activity button, wherein the defined activity is thereafter displayed in the activity window and the defined activity includes an activity description, a start time, a duration, and a status; and
 - (c) logic for determining ~~[[a]]~~ the status for the defined activity based on the start time activity start data for the defined activity and the activity duration data for the defined activity[[.]]; and
 - (d) logic for automatically acquiring background information relevant to the defined activity including automatically obtaining the activity description when the start time is within a predetermined period, parsing and pattern matching the activity description to identify searchable components thereof, querying a plurality of sources across a network to obtain the background information, and receiving the background information in response to querying the plurality of sources.
16. (original) A system as recited in claim 15, wherein the activity is defined as a brainstorming activity.
17. (original) A system as recited in claim 15, wherein the activity is defined as a categorization activity.

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18. (original) A system as recited in claim 15, wherein the activity is defined as a voting activity.
19. (original) A system as recited in claim 15, further comprising logic for displaying a message window capable of displaying user messages in real-time.
20. (original) A system as recited in claim 15, further comprising logic for sending the defined activity to a database in response to user selection of a submit button.